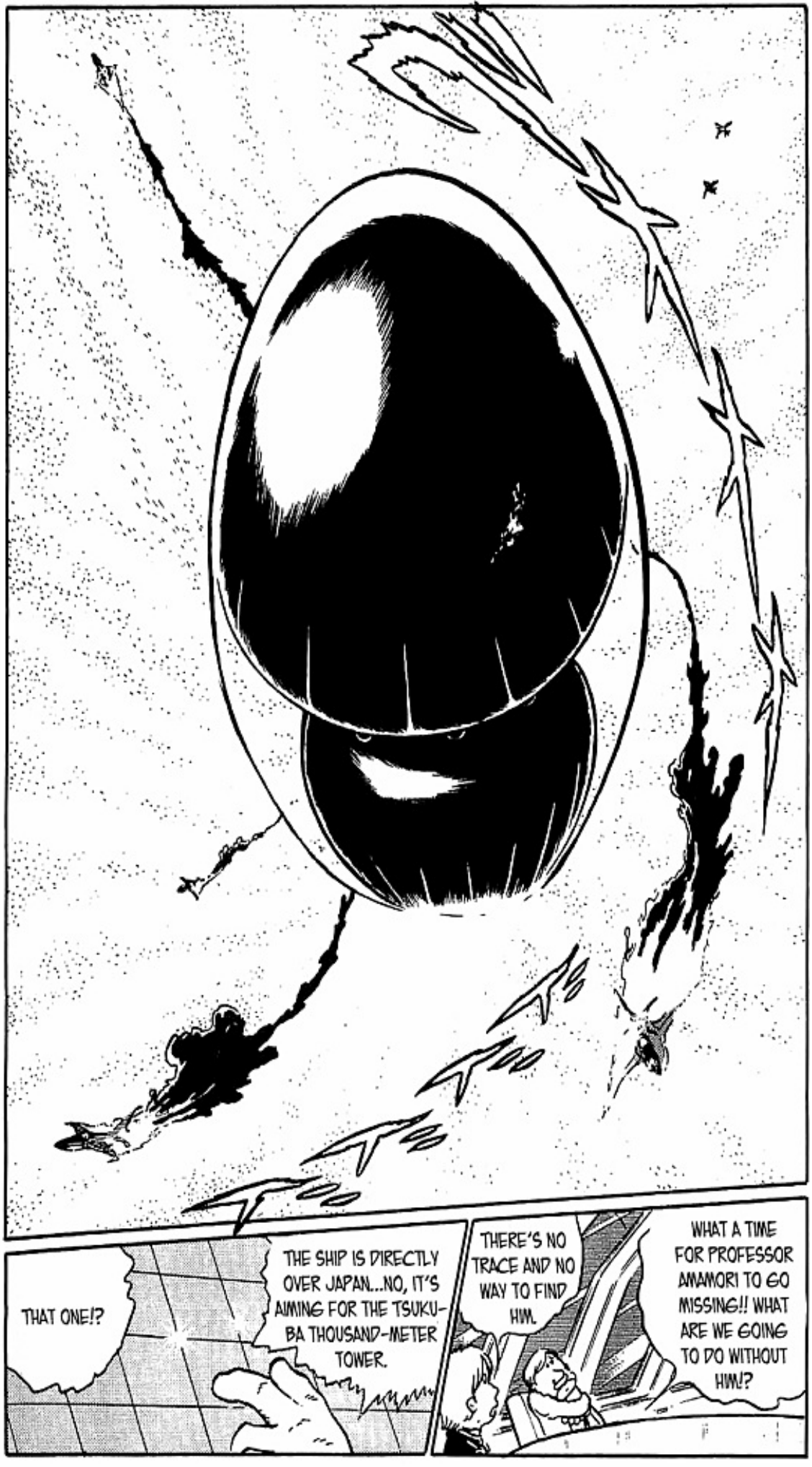
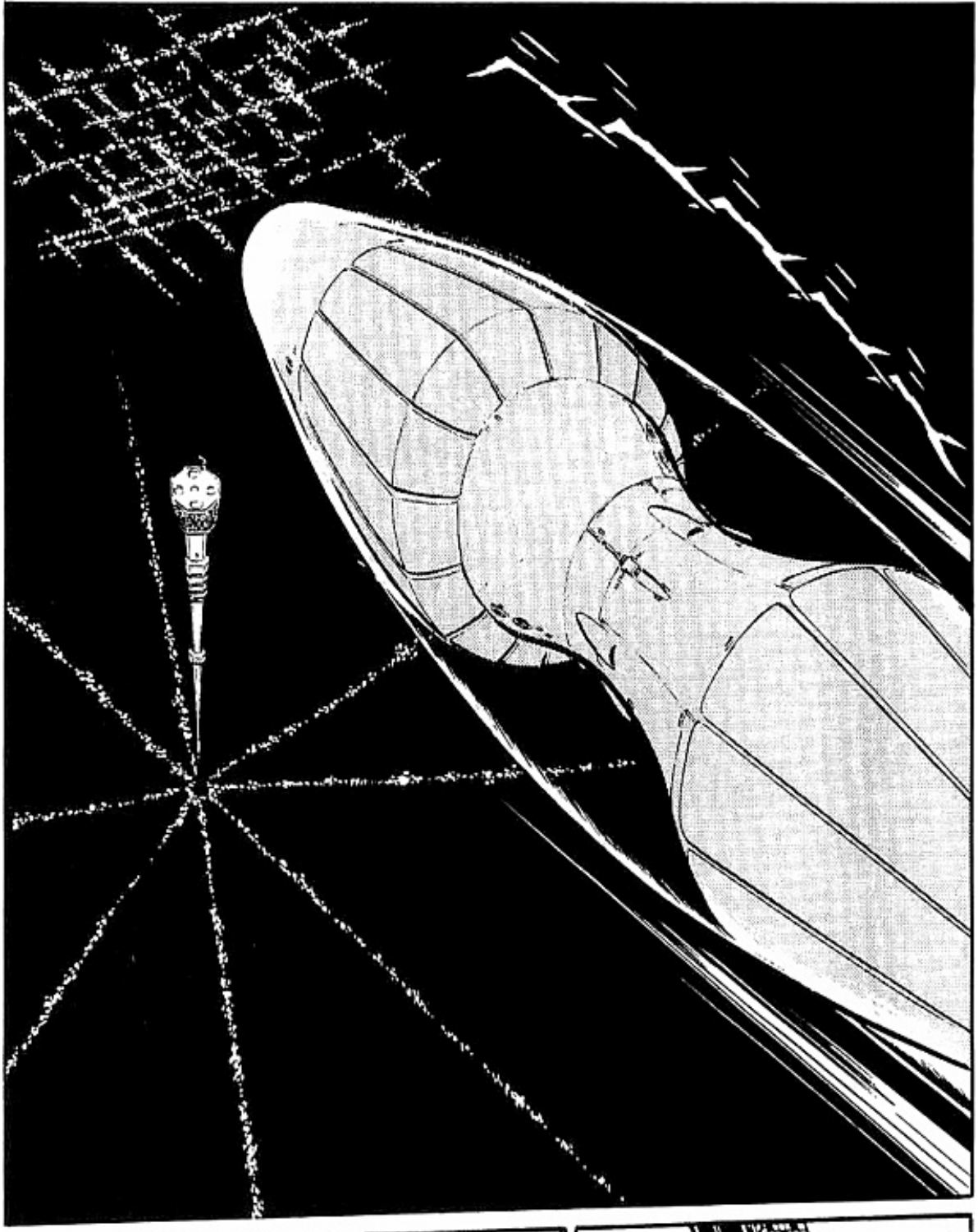
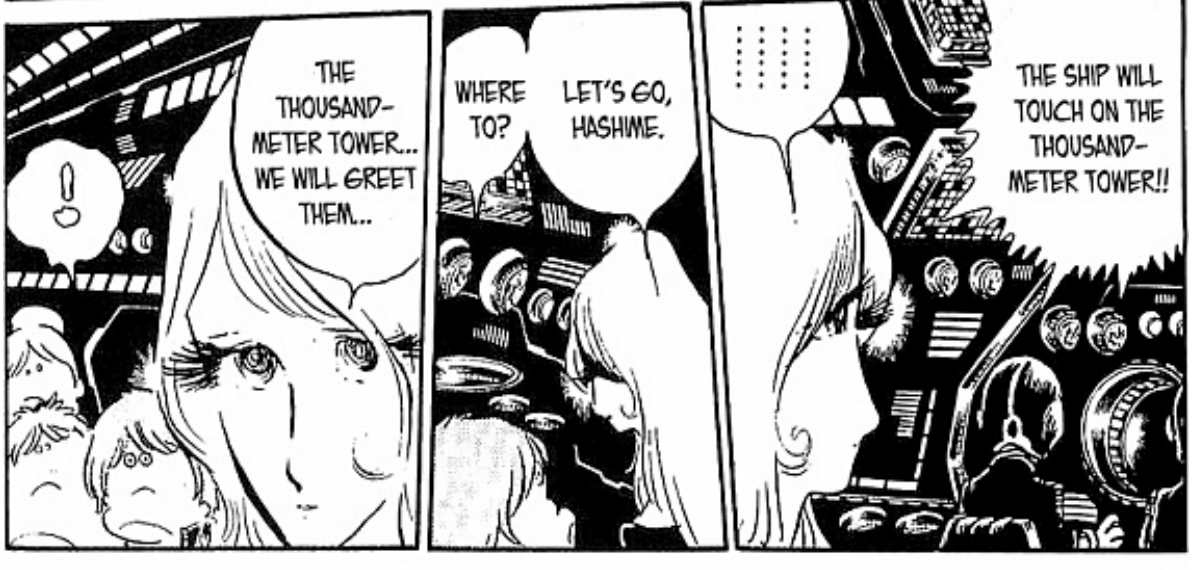
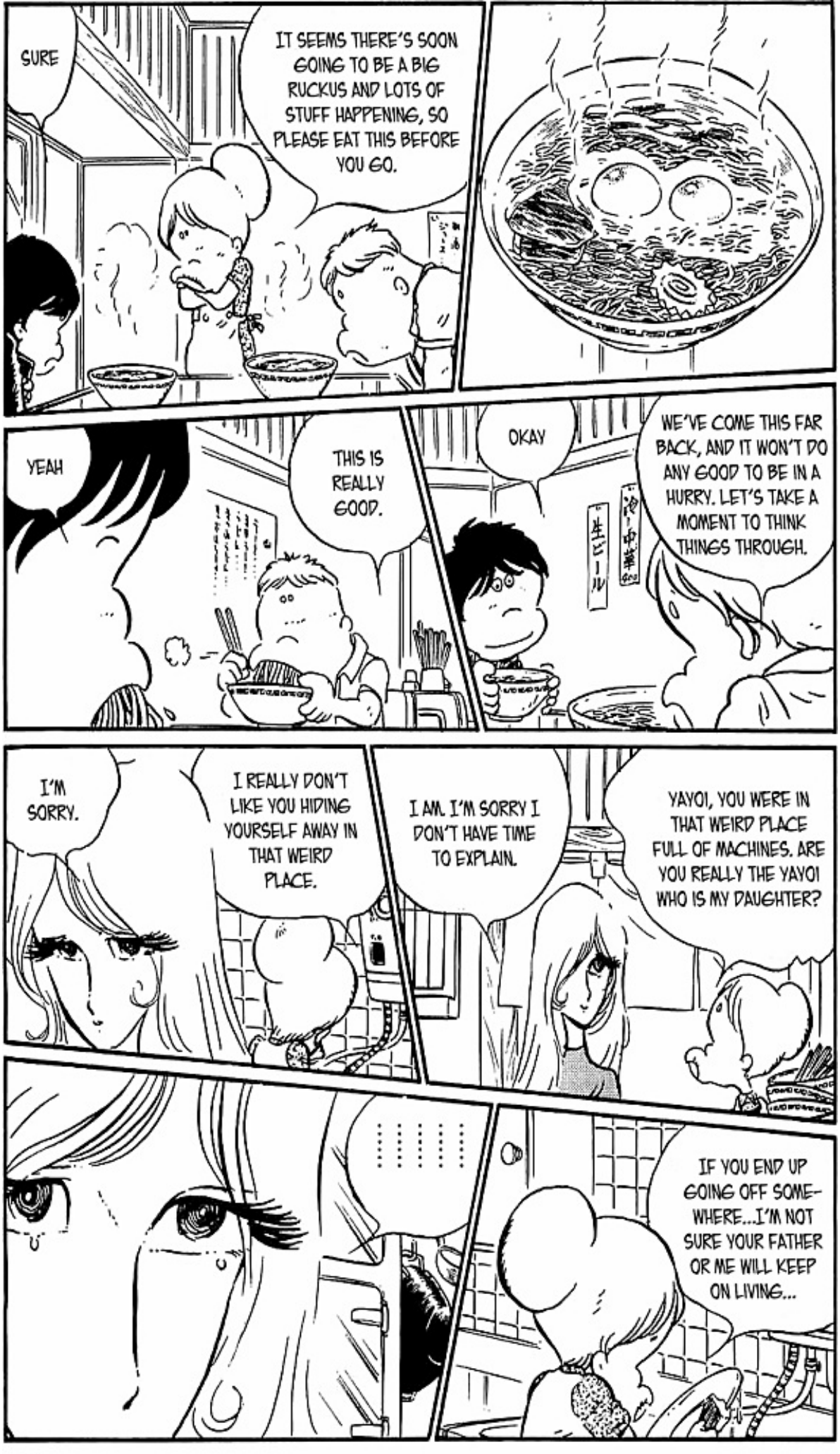
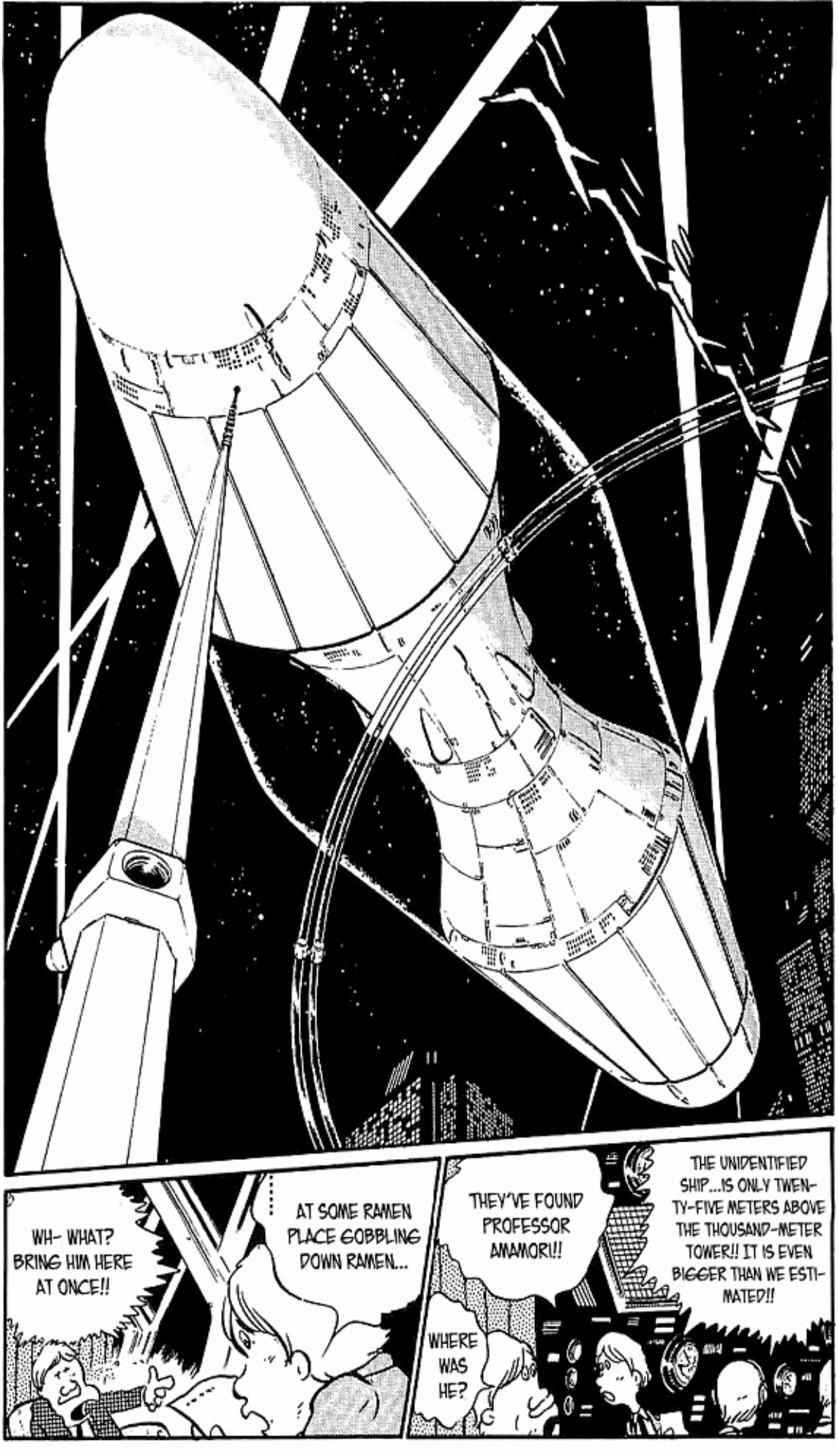

THAT ONE!?
THE SHIP IS DIRECTLY OVER JAPAN...NO, IT'S AIMING FOR THE TSUKUBA THOUSAND-METER TOWER.
THERE'S NO TRACE AND NO WAY TO FIND HIM.
WHAT A TIME FOR PROFESSOR AMAMORI TO GO MISSING!! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITHOUT HIM!?

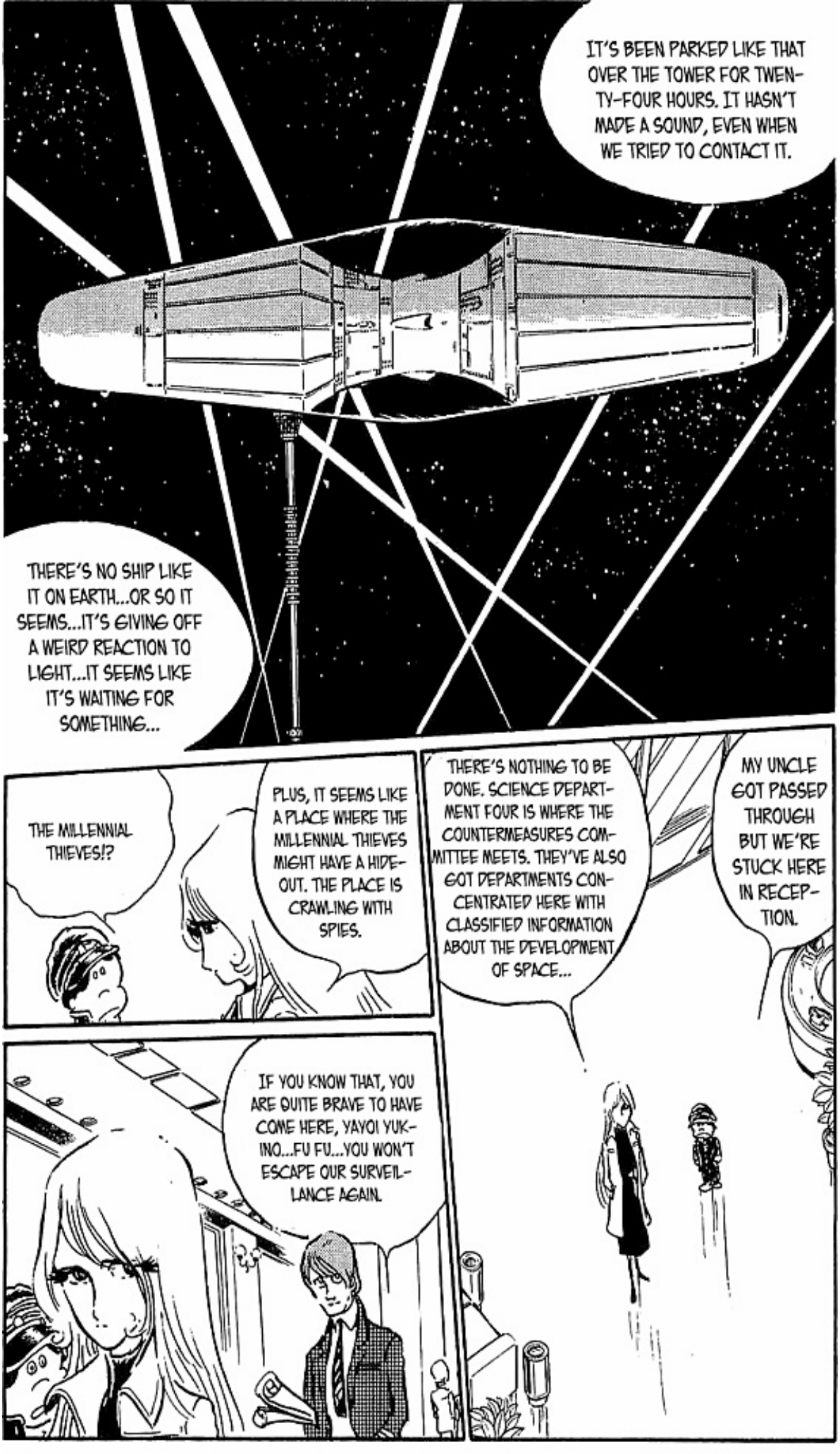



THE THOUSAND-METER TOWER... WE WILL GREET THEM...
!
WHERE TO?
LET'S GO, HASHIME.
.....
THE SHIP WILL TOUCH ON THE THOUSAND-METER TOWER!!

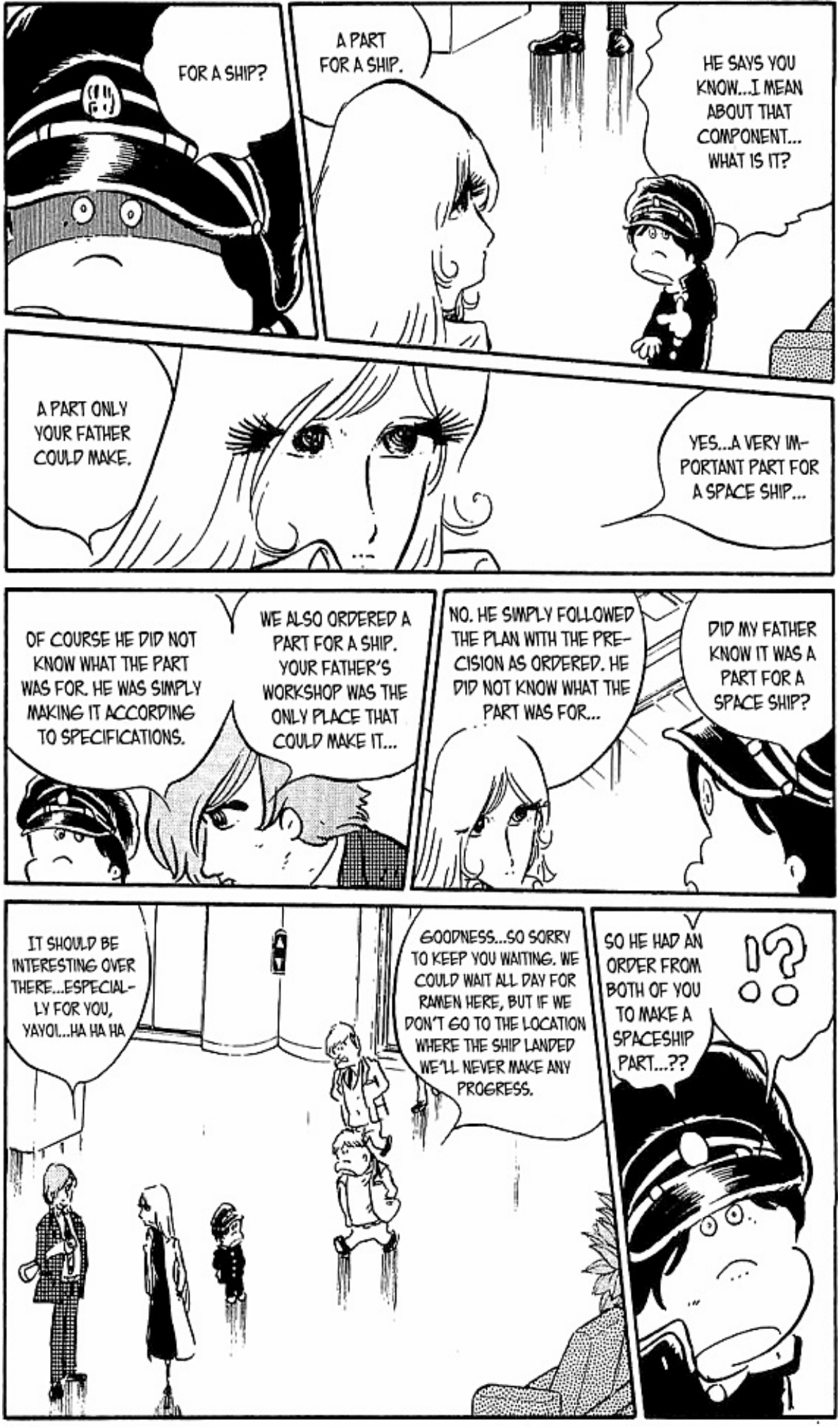

SURE
IT SEEMS THERE'S SOON GOING TO BE A BIG RUCKUS AND LOTS OF STUFF HAPPENING, SO PLEASE EAT THIS BEFORE YOU GO.
YEAH
THIS IS REALLY GOOD.
OKAY
WE'VE COME THIS FAR BACK, AND IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO BE IN A HURRY. LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.
I'M SORRY.
I REALLY DON'T LIKE YOU HIDING YOURSELF AWAY IN THAT WEIRD PLACE.
I AM. I'M SORRY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN.
YAYOI, YOU WERE IN THAT WEIRD PLACE FULL OF MACHINES. ARE YOU REALLY THE YAYOI WHO IS MY DAUGHTER?
.....
IF YOU END UP GOING OFF SOMEWHERE...I'M NOT SURE YOUR FATHER OR ME WILL KEEP ON LIVING...

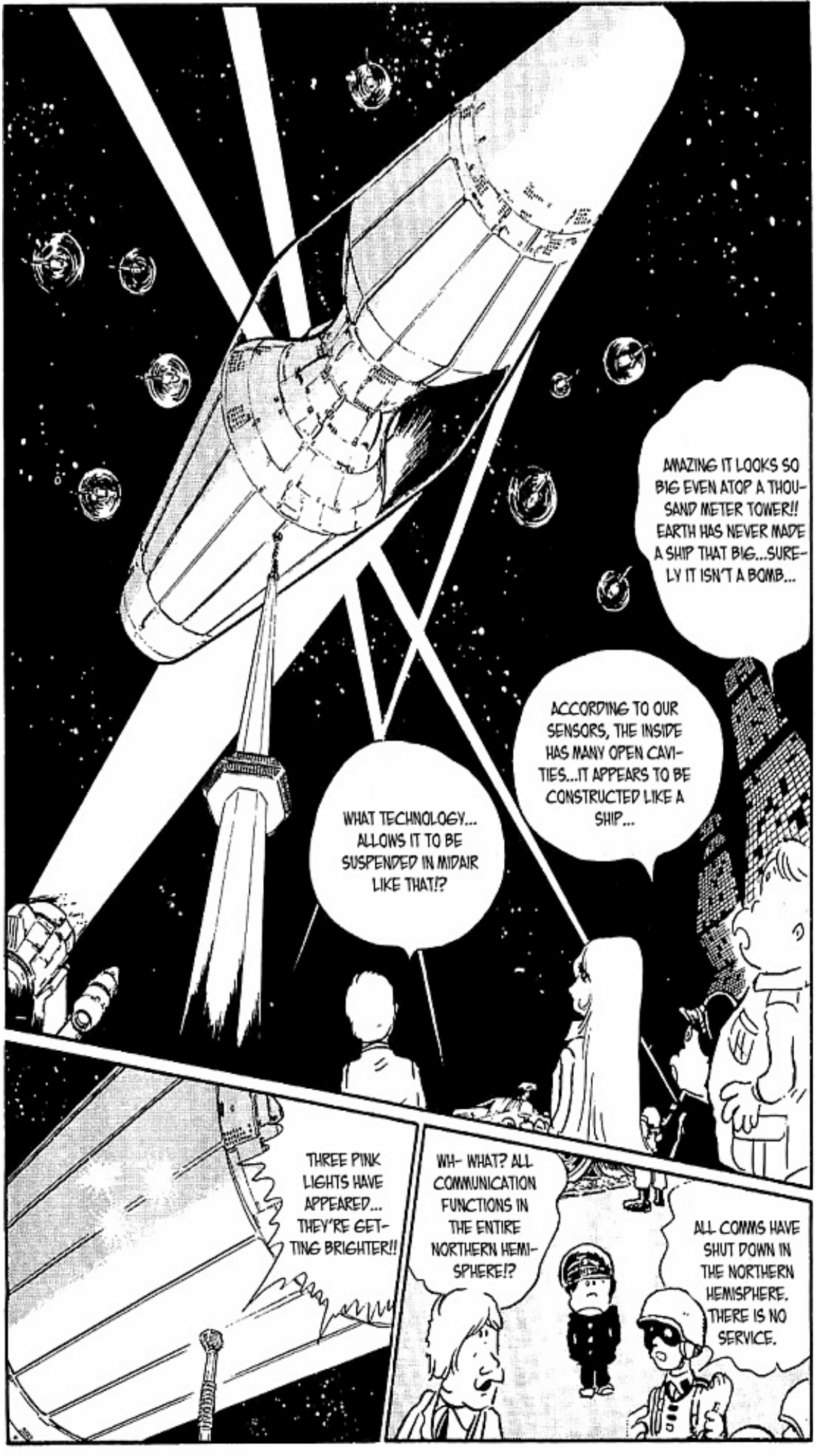

THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP...IS ONLY TWENTY-FIVE METERS ABOVE THE THOUSAND-METER TOWER!! IT IS EVEN BIGGER THAN WE ESTIMATED!!
THEY'VE FOUND PROFESSOR AMAMORI!!
WHERE WAS HE?
AT SOME RAMEN PLACE GOBBLING DOWN RAMEN...
WH- WHAT? BRING HIM HERE AT ONCE!!

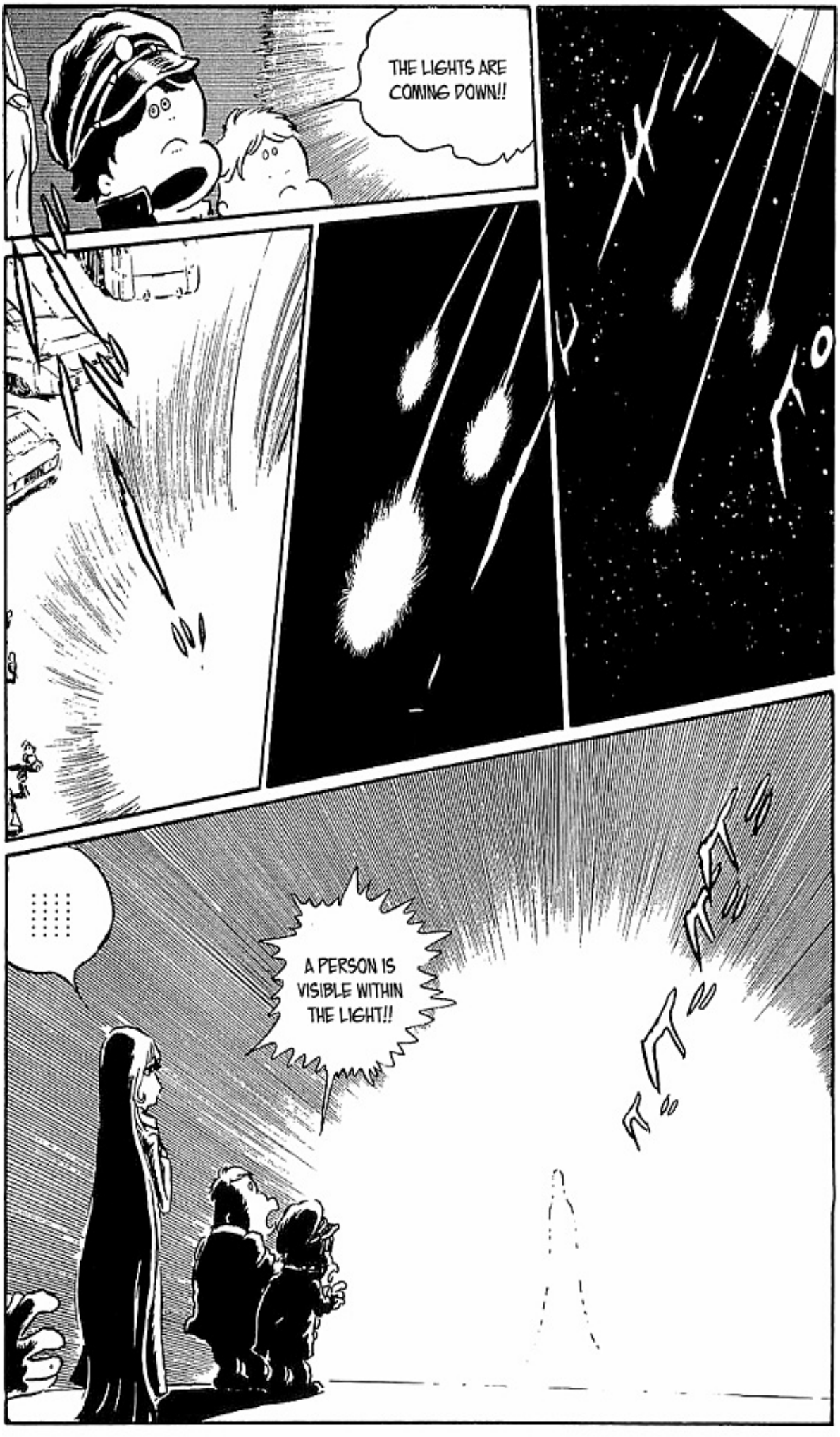
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES. WE'LL ORDER CARRY OUT FOR THE COUNTER-MEASURES COMMIT-TEE RIGHT AWAY.
INTERRUPTING MY PLEASANT RAMEN MEAL HAS LEFT ME IN A BAD MOOD! A BAD MOOD!!
HELLO, PRO-FESSOR. SO SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
I WOULD HAVE COME ON MY OWN AS SOON AS I FINISHED EATING.
YOU HAVE TO PUT A HUNDRED YEN COIN IN OR YOU WON'T SEE ANYTHING.
WELL, ANYWAY, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.
HMMM. IT'S ALONGSIDE THE THOUSAND METER TOWER THAT WAS BUILD IN 1985 WHEN I GOT MY DOCTORATE IN SCIENCE...AND IT'S NOT MOVING...
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH I LIKE TO LOOK AT STARS I'M TERRIFIED OF HEIGHTS? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
I'M SORRY, PRO-FESSOR. WE HAVE TO GO TO TO THE TOP FLOOR 404 BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE COUNTERMEASURES COMMITTEE IS.
第4科学局
(SIGN) SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FOUR

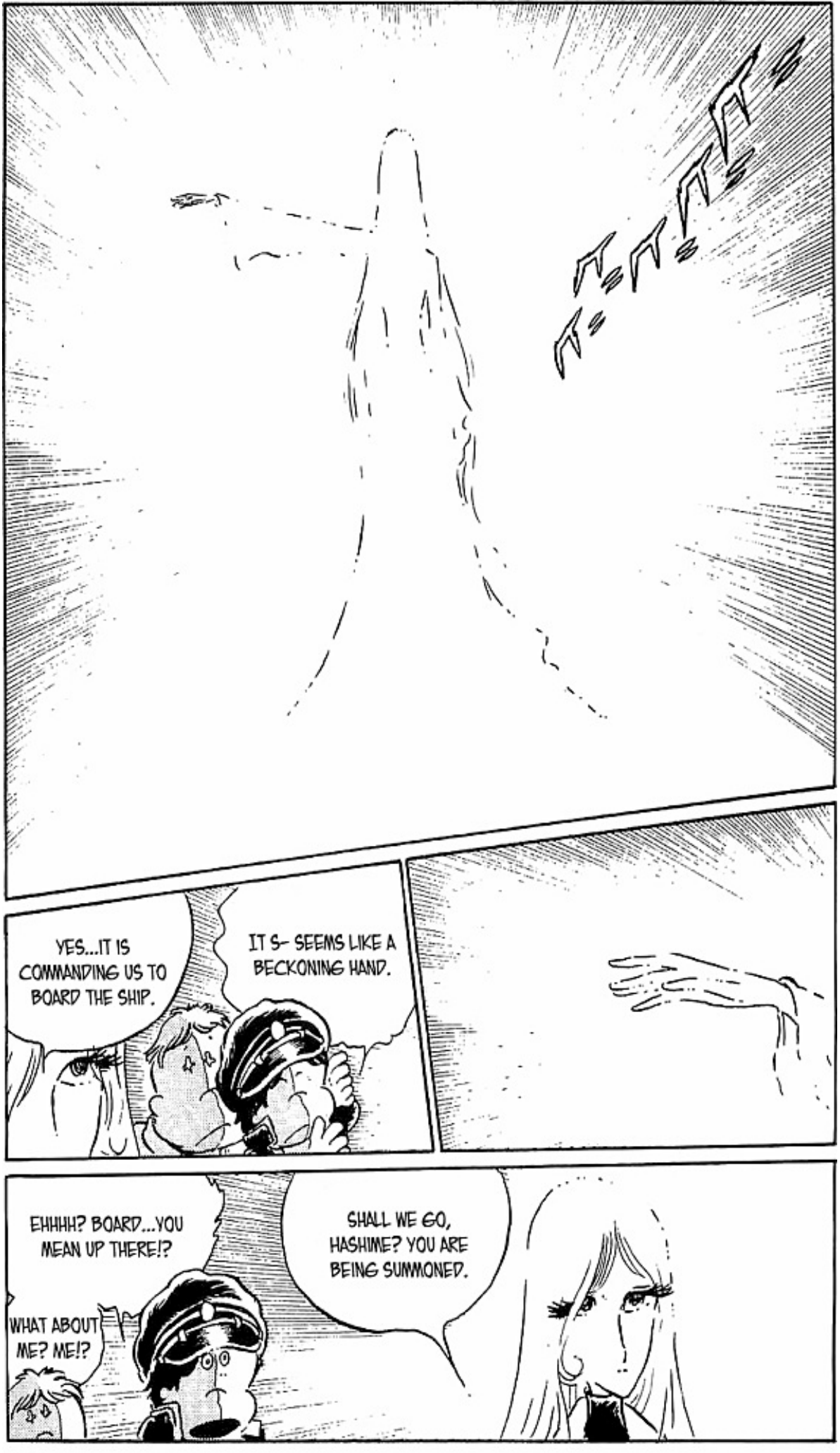

IT'S BEEN PARKED LIKE THAT OVER THE TOWER FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. IT HASN'T MADE A SOUND, EVEN WHEN WE TRIED TO CONTACT IT.
THERE'S NO SHIP LIKE IT ON EARTH...OR SO IT SEEMS...IT'S GIVING OFF A WEIRD REACTION TO LIGHT...IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING...
THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES!?
PLUS, IT SEEMS LIKE A PLACE WHERE THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES MIGHT HAVE A HIDEOUT. THE PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH SPIES.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE. SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FOUR IS WHERE THE COUNTERMEASURES COMMITTEE MEETS. THEY'VE ALSO GOT DEPARTMENTS CONCENTRATED HERE WITH CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE...
MY UNCLE GOT PASSED THROUGH BUT WE'RE STUCK HERE IN RECEPTION.
IF YOU KNOW THAT, YOU ARE QUITE BRAVE TO HAVE COME HERE, YAYOI YUKINO...FU FU...YOU WON'T ESCAPE OUR SURVEILLANCE AGAIN.

MUR-
DERER!
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR PARENTS...
YOU...ARE HASHIME AMAMORI, HUH...THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES ARE A GANG OF ROB-BERS, RIGHT?
BUT IT IS A RESPON-SIBILITY SHARED BY BOTH THE MILLENNI-AL THIEVES AND QUEEN MILLENNIAL.
THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT. WE FEEL A BIT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT...
BLOWING UP MY FATHER'S WORK-SHOP...WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOW I FEEL!?
I GUESS YOUR PARENTS SOMEHOW SURVIVED AND ENDED UP AT THE OBSERVATORY...I UNDERSTAND. YOU'VE LOST THEM NOW.
!?
WELL, THAT'S...
EH...
HAVING TWO OF THOSE "COMPONENTS" TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE IS VERY DAN-GEROUS. YAYOI YUKINO KNOWS EXACTLY WHICH COMPONENT I'M TALKING ABOUT. TRY ASKING HER ABOUT IT!!
UNBEKNOWNST TO EACH OTHER, WE BOTH ORDERED THAT "COMPONENT" FROM YOUR FATHER'S WORKSHOP.
...

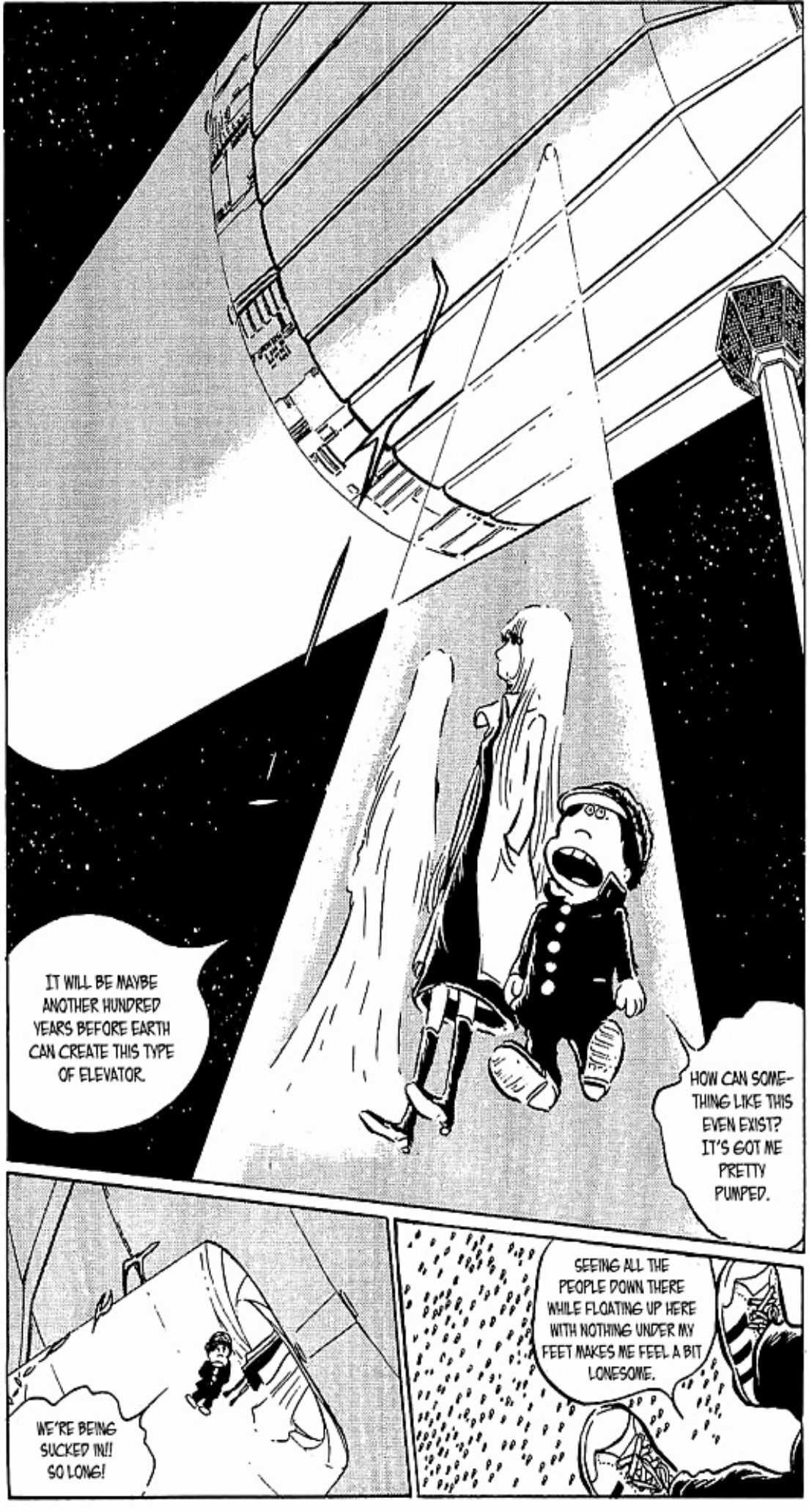

FOR A SHIP?
A PART FOR A SHIP.
HE SAYS YOU KNOW...I MEAN ABOUT THAT COMPONENT... WHAT IS IT?
A PART ONLY YOUR FATHER COULD MAKE.
YES...A VERY IMPORTANT PART FOR A SPACE SHIP...
OF COURSE HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE PART WAS FOR. HE WAS SIMPLY MAKING IT ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATIONS.
WE ALSO ORDERED A PART FOR A SHIP. YOUR FATHER'S WORKSHOP WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT COULD MAKE IT...
NO. HE SIMPLY FOLLOWED THE PLAN WITH THE PRECISION AS ORDERED. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE PART WAS FOR...
DID MY FATHER KNOW IT WAS A PART FOR A SPACE SHIP?
IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING OVER THERE...ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, YAYOI...HA HA HA
GOODNESS...SO SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. WE COULD WAIT ALL DAY FOR RAMEN HERE, BUT IF WE DON'T GO TO THE LOCATION WHERE THE SHIP LANDED WE'LL NEVER MAKE ANY PROGRESS.
SO HE HAD AN ORDER FROM BOTH OF YOU TO MAKE A SPACESHIP PART...??
!?

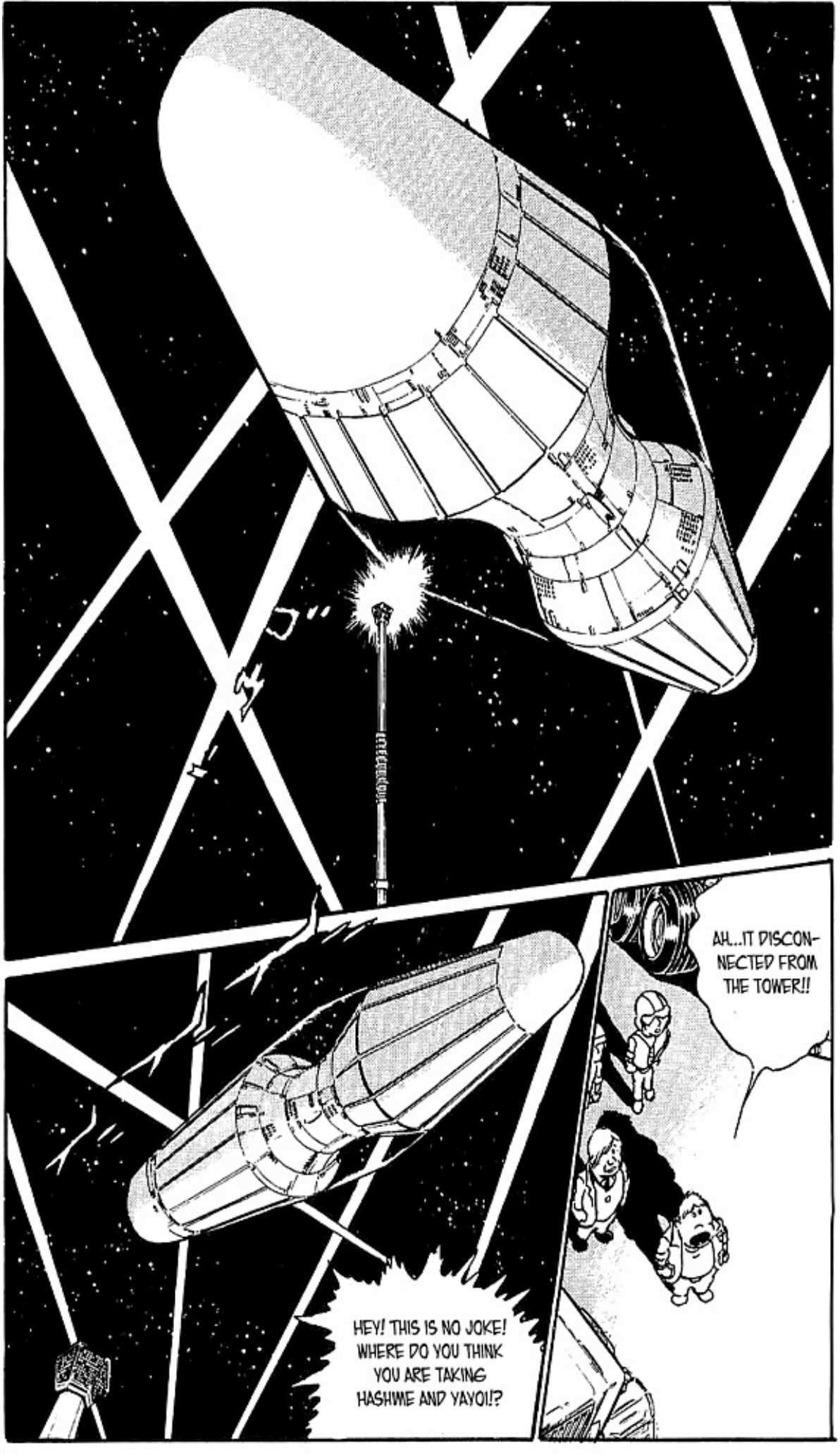

AMAZING IT LOOKS SO BIG EVEN ATOP A THOUSAND METER TOWER!! EARTH HAS NEVER MADE A SHIP THAT BIG...SURELY IT ISN'T A BOMB...
ACCORDING TO OUR SENSORS, THE INSIDE HAS MANY OPEN CAVITIES...IT APPEARS TO BE CONSTRUCTED LIKE A SHIP...
WHAT TECHNOLOGY... ALLOWS IT TO BE SUSPENDED IN MIDAIR LIKE THAT!?
THREE PINK LIGHTS HAVE APPEARED... THEY'RE GETTING BRIGHTER!!
WH- WHAT? ALL COMMUNICATION FUNCTIONS IN THE ENTIRE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE!?
ALL COMMS HAVE SHUT DOWN IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE. THERE IS NO SERVICE.

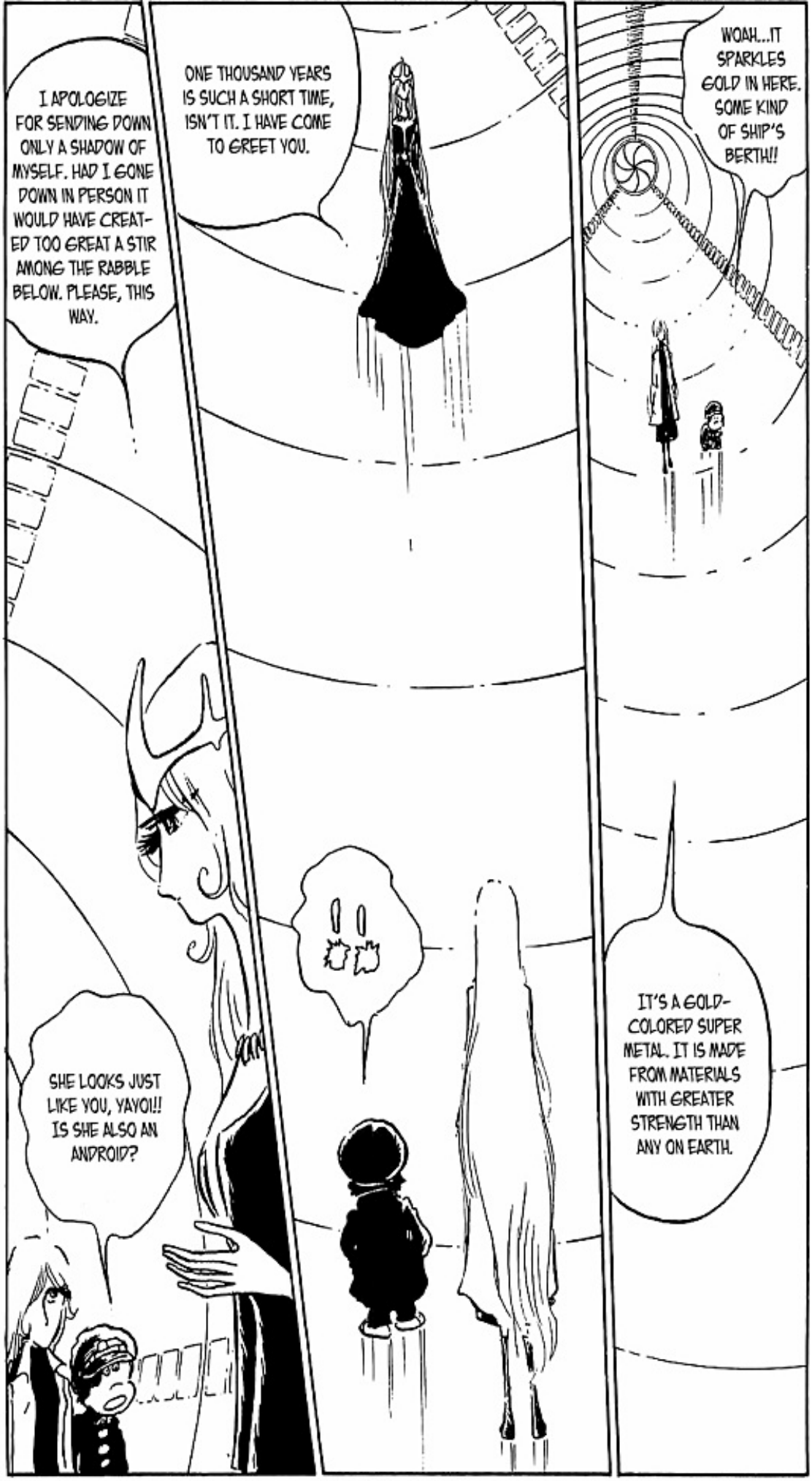

THE LIGHTS ARE COMING DOWN!!
A PERSON IS VISIBLE WITHIN THE LIGHT!!

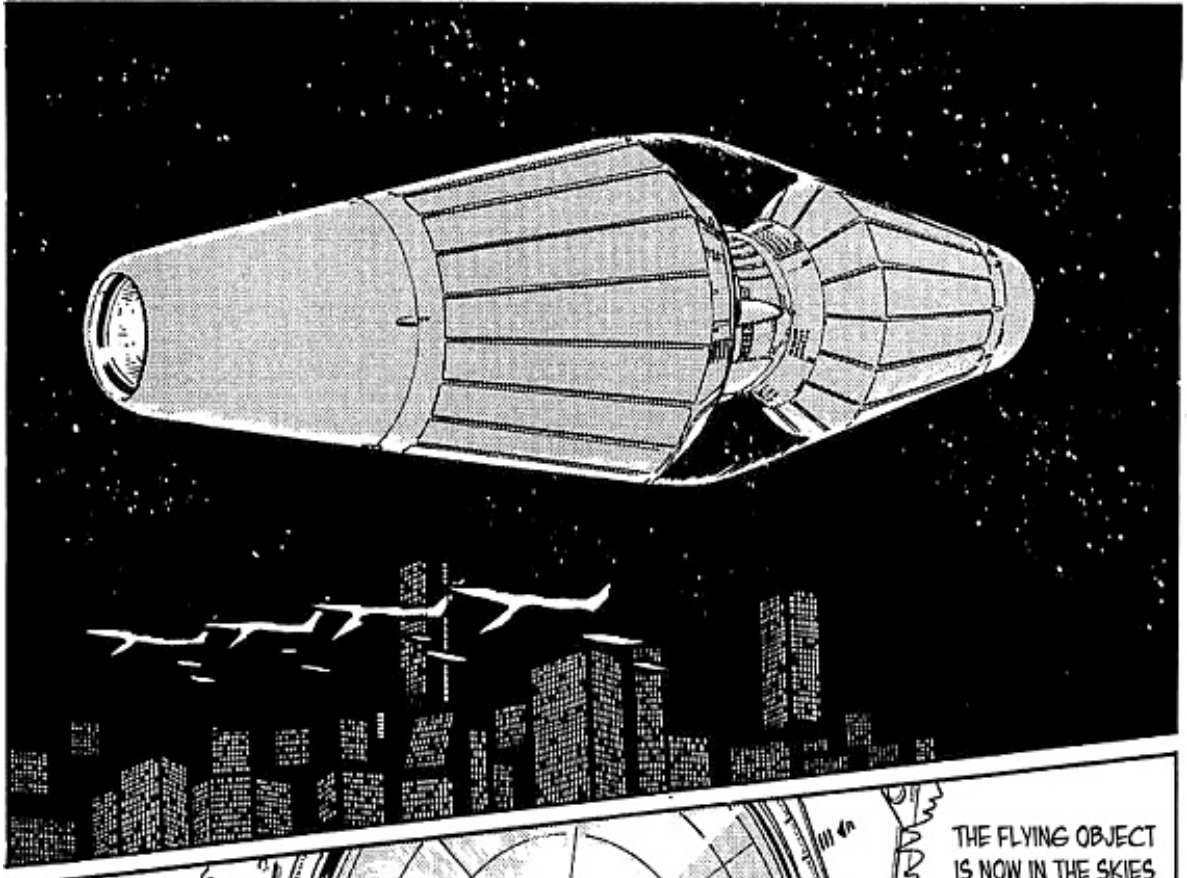

YES...IT IS COMMANDING US TO BOARD THE SHIP.
IT S- SEEMS LIKE A BECKONING HAND.
EHHHH? BOARD...YOU MEAN UP THERE!?
WHAT ABOUT ME? ME!?
SHALL WE GO, HASHIME? YOU ARE BEING SUMMONED.

THAT IMAGE IS PROJECTED BY A HIGH-ANGLE LASER. IT WON'T DO ANY-THING.
IT'S SO BRIGHT I CAN'T SEE HER FACE. IS IT SAFE TO GET CLOSER?
HEY...WHEN I GOT CLOSE I STARTED TO FLOAT UP.
THINK OF IT AS A LASER TELEPHONE.
UWAH. SHE SPOKE...IT'S A KINDA CREEPY.
COME TO MY CABIN.
G'BYE...
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON!? YOU'RE FLOATING UP! HEY, HASHIME!!
S- SHE'S IN THE SHIP...!?
THE LIGHT BEAM CONTAINS AN ANTIGRAVITY FORCE. WHEN YOU GO ABOARD YOU CAN SPEAK WITH THE REAL PERSON BEHIND THIS PRO-JECTION.


IT WILL BE MAYBE ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE EARTH CAN CREATE THIS TYPE OF ELEVATOR.
HOW CAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS EVEN EXIST? IT'S GOT ME PRETTY PUMPED.
WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN!! SO LONG!
SEEING ALL THE PEOPLE DOWN THERE WHILE FLOATING UP HERE WITH NOTHING UNDER MY FEET MAKES ME FEEL A BIT LONESOME.

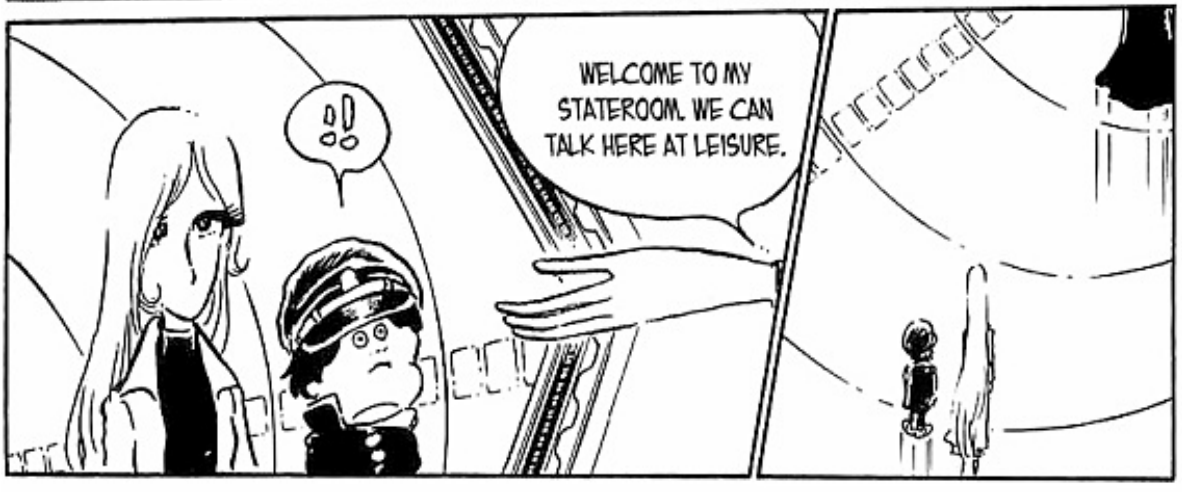

AH...IT DISCON-
NECTED FROM
THE TOWER!!
HEY! THIS IS NO JOKE!
WHERE DO YOU THINK
YOU ARE TAKING
HASHIME AND YAYOI!?


I APOLOGIZE FOR SENDING DOWN ONLY A SHADOW OF MYSELF. HAD I GONE DOWN IN PERSON IT WOULD HAVE CREATED TOO GREAT A STIR AMONG THE RABBLE BELOW. PLEASE, THIS WAY.
ONE THOUSAND YEARS IS SUCH A SHORT TIME, ISN'T IT. I HAVE COME TO GREET YOU.
WOAH...IT SPARKLES GOLD IN HERE. SOME KIND OF SHIP'S BERTH!!
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, YAYOI!! IS SHE ALSO AN ANDROID?
!!
IT'S A GOLD-COLORED SUPER METAL. IT IS MADE FROM MATERIALS WITH GREATER STRENGTH THAN ANY ON EARTH.

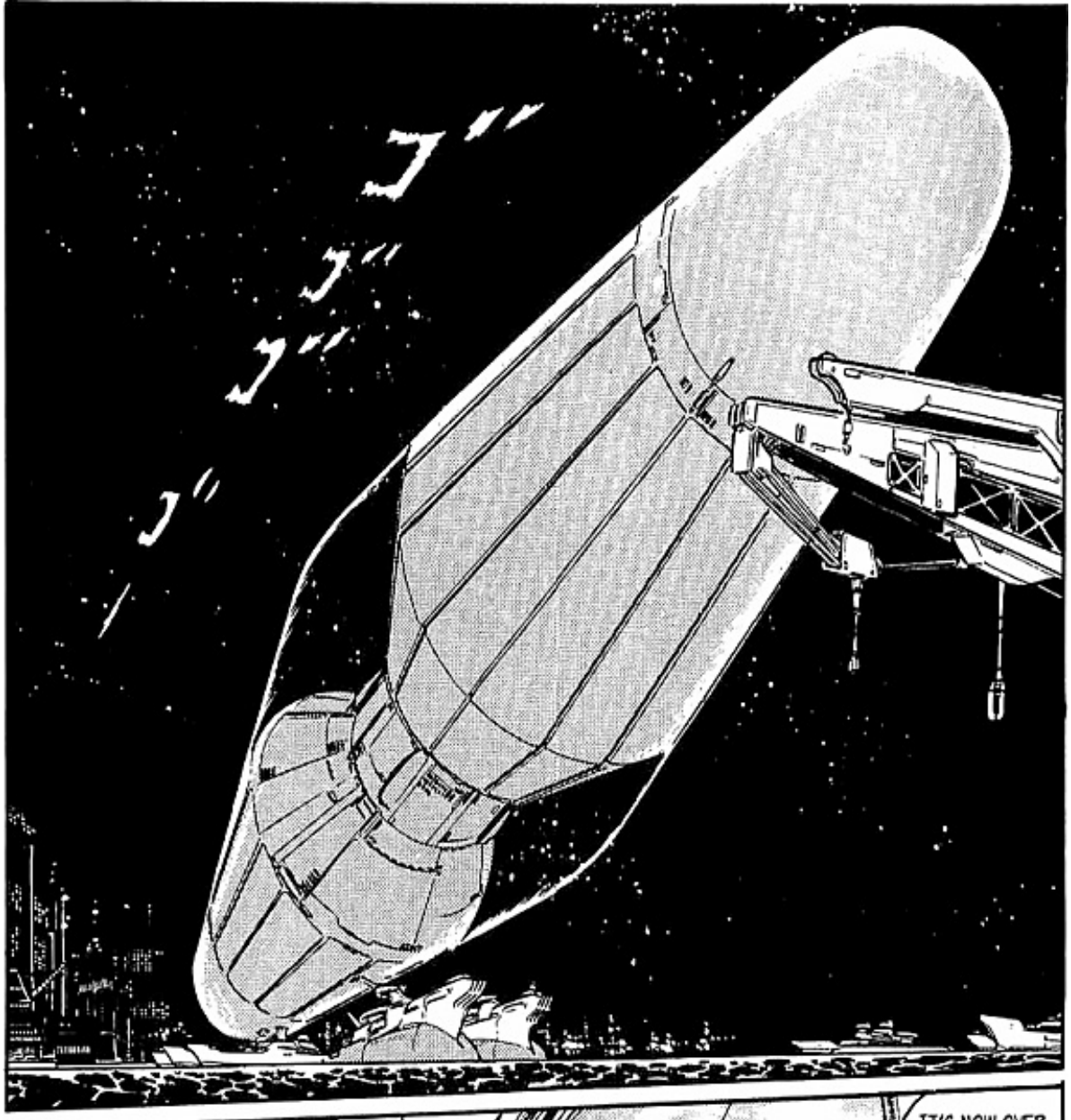


IN TWO MINUTES IT WILL BE OVER THE TOKYO HARBOR!!
THE FLYING OBJECT IS NOW IN THE SKIES ABOVE TOKYO!! IT IS FLOATING SLOWLY TO THE SOUTH!!

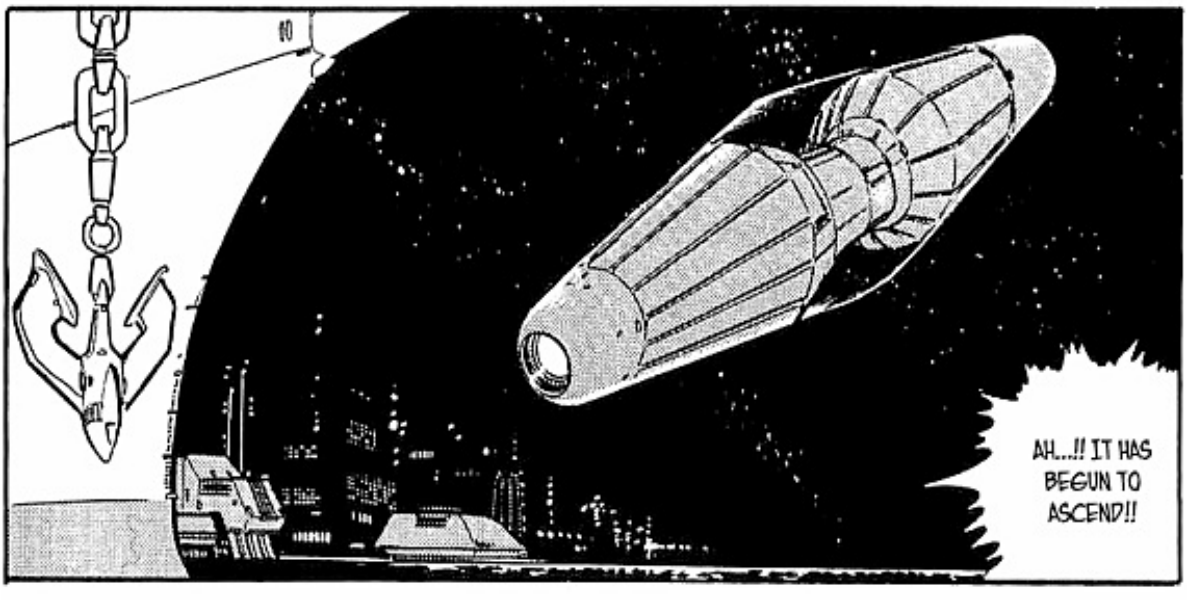
BUCK UP, MOMMA.
YAYOI IS GONE? I JUST CAN'T...
HEY! YOU TAKE TWO WEAKLINGS ON BOARD AND THEN YOU LEAVE!?

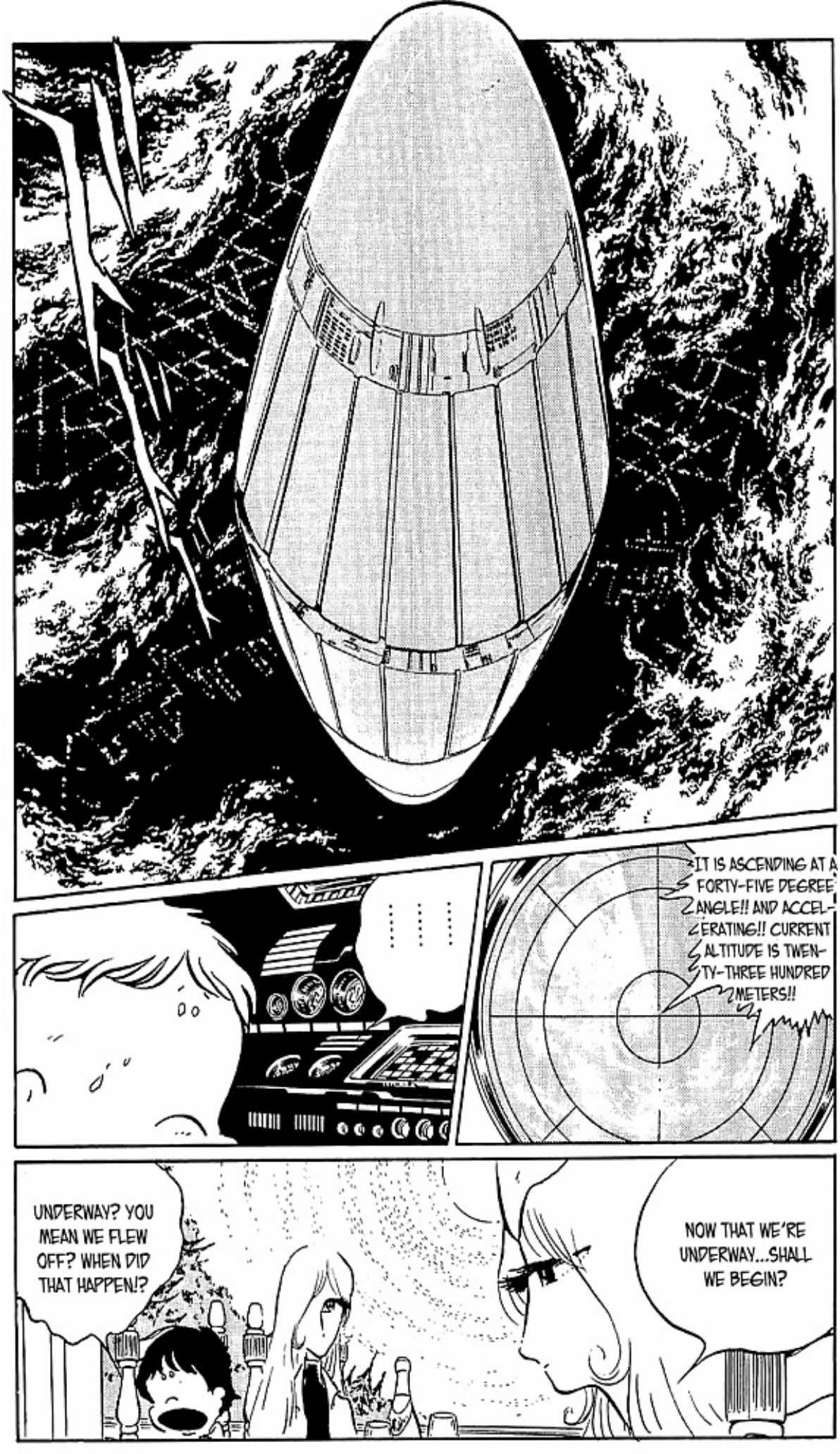

!!
WELCOME TO MY STATEROOM. WE CAN TALK HERE AT LEISURE.

I'M SORRY THE GARDEN IS SO SMALL. EVEN IF I SAY SO MYSELF, THE VIEW BY THE WINDOW IS RATHER NICE. LET'S TALK HERE.
THIS IS A STATEROOM ON A SHIP!?

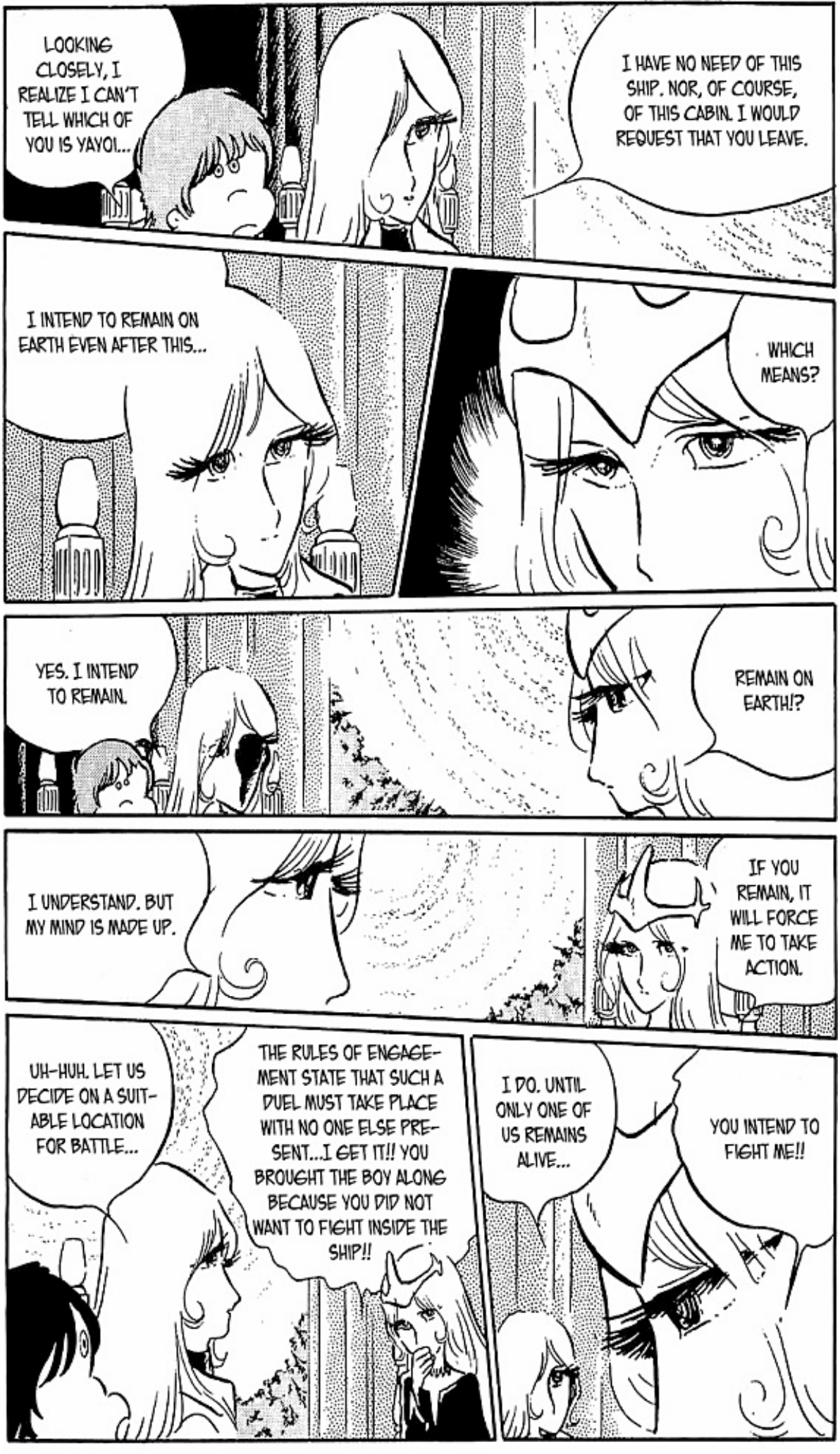


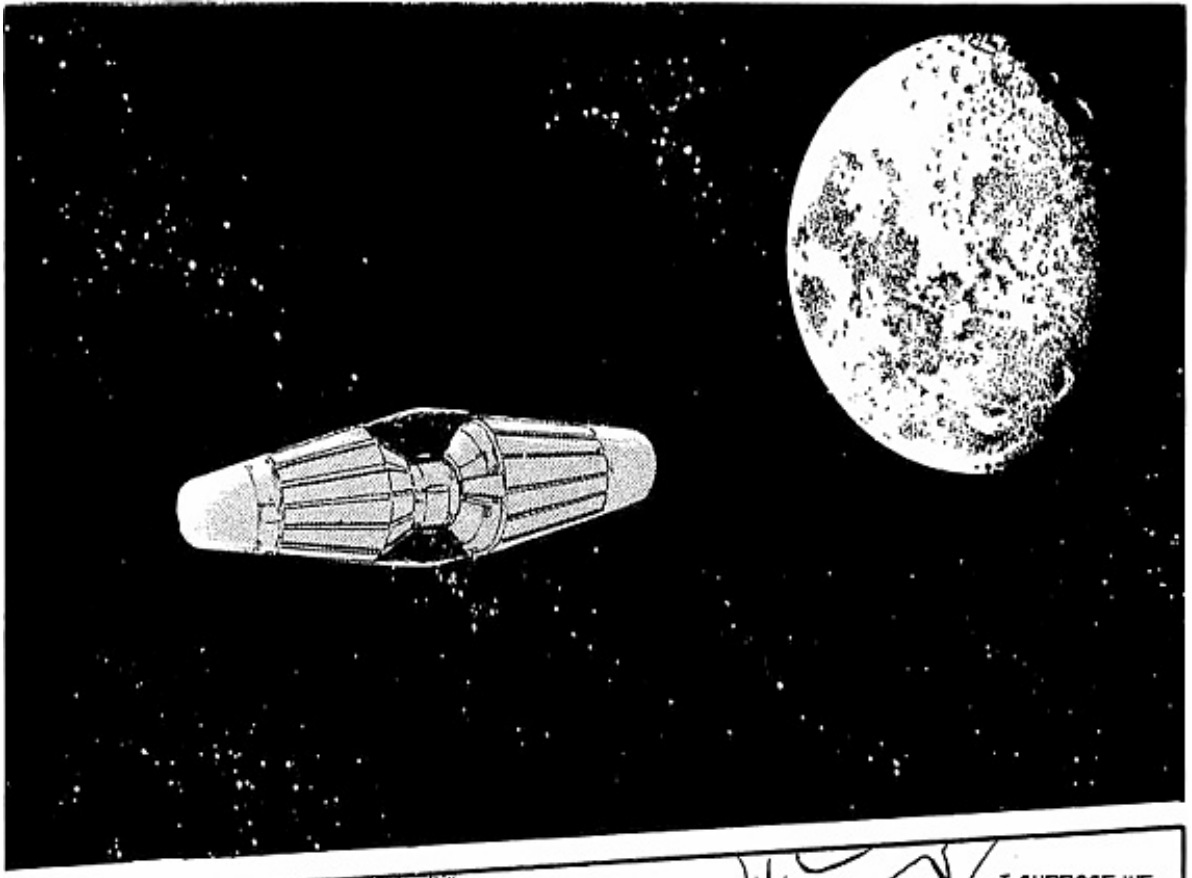
WHERE IS IT GOING?
IT'S NOW OVER TOKYO HARBOR... JUST PASSING OVER SHINAGAWA PIER.


80
AH...!! IT HAS BEGUN TO ASCEND!!


IT IS ASCENDING AT A FORTY-FIVE DEGREE ANGLE!! AND ACCELERATING!! CURRENT ALTITUDE IS TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED METERS!!
UNDERWAY? YOU MEAN WE FLEW OFF? WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN!?
NOW THAT WE'RE UNDERWAY...SHALL WE BEGIN?

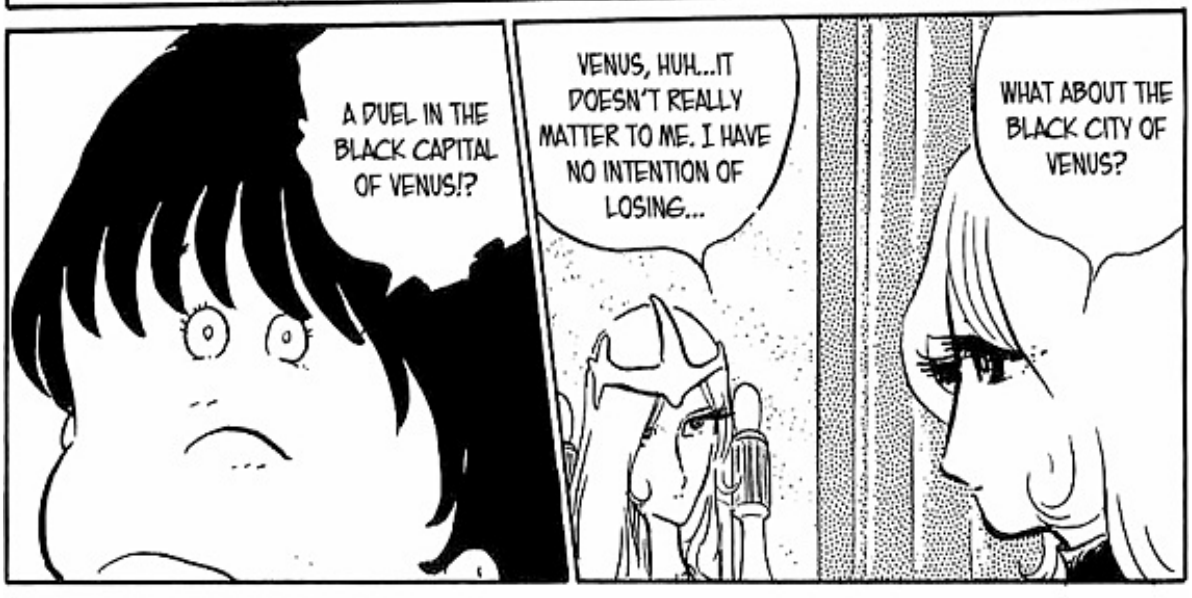
L- LEFT THE ATMOSPHERE. HEY! COME BACK HERE!
IT LEFT THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE SKY ABOVE HACHIJO ISLAND.
WITHOUT ANY LIFTOFF SHOCK...
AS YOU CAN SEE, MY SHIP HAS DEPARTED THE EARTH.
WHAT IS THE SHIP'S DESIGN? HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS ARE THERE? WHAT IS ITS TONNAGE?
COULD I BE DREAMING...? OWWW!!
Y- YOU'RE ALONE? ON THIS ENORMOUS SHIP!?
I'M THE ONLY ONE ON BOARD!! NOW, YAYOI...I HAVE COMPLETED ALL THE PREPARATIONS FOR HANDING THIS CABIN AND THE ENTIRE SHIP OVER TO YOU. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

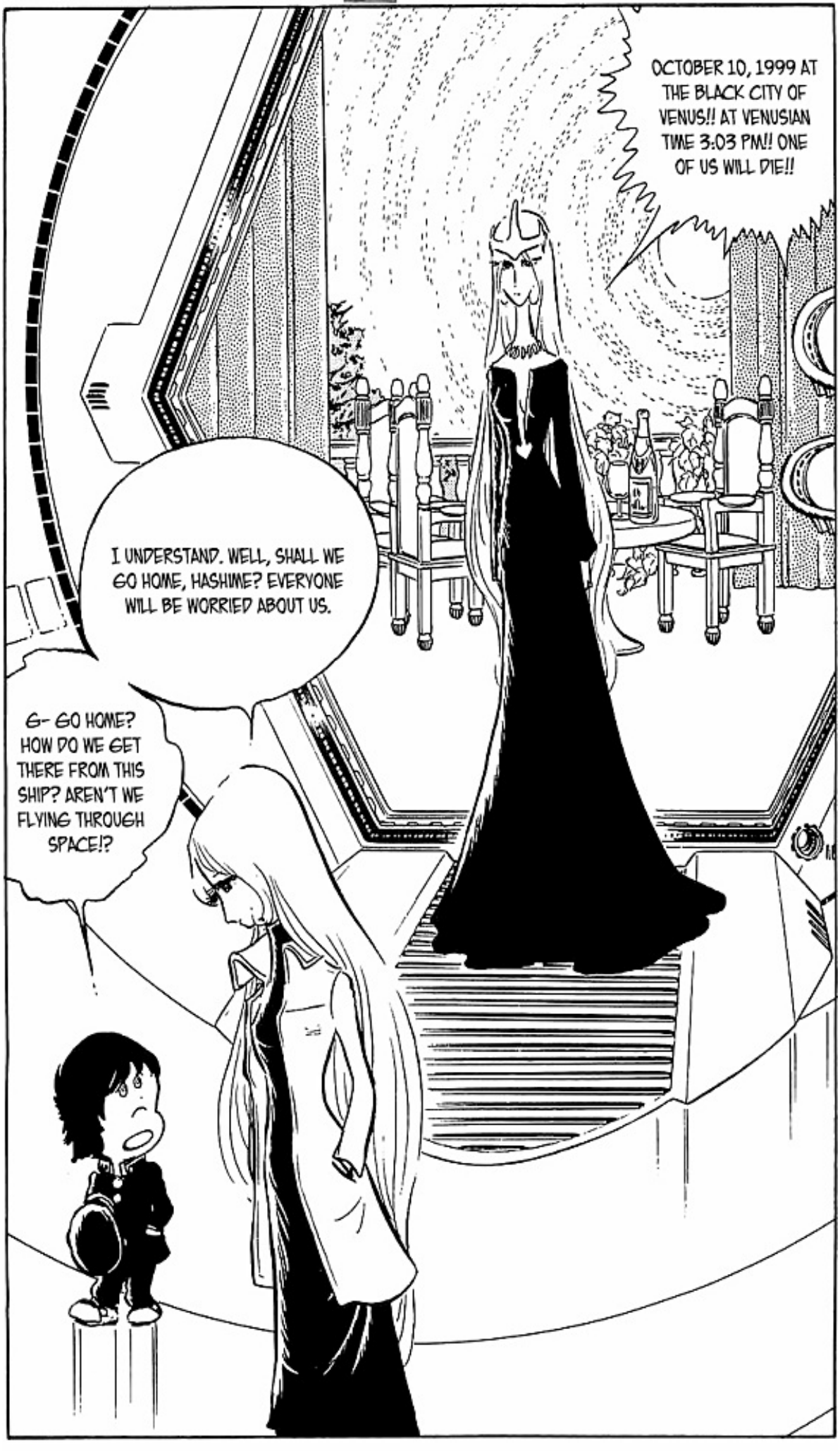

LOOKING CLOSELY, I REALIZE I CAN'T TELL WHICH OF YOU IS YAYOI...
I HAVE NO NEED OF THIS SHIP. NOR, OF COURSE, OF THIS CABIN. I WOULD REQUEST THAT YOU LEAVE.
I INTEND TO REMAIN ON EARTH EVEN AFTER THIS...
WHICH MEANS?
YES. I INTEND TO REMAIN.
REMAIN ON EARTH!?
I UNDERSTAND. BUT MY MIND IS MADE UP.
IF YOU REMAIN, IT WILL FORCE ME TO TAKE ACTION.
UH-HUH. LET US DECIDE ON A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR BATTLE...
THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT STATE THAT SUCH A DUEL MUST TAKE PLACE WITH NO ONE ELSE PRESENT...I GET IT!! YOU BROUGHT THE BOY ALONG BECAUSE YOU DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT INSIDE THE SHIP!!
I DO. UNTIL ONLY ONE OF US REMAINS ALIVE...
YOU INTEND TO FIGHT ME!!

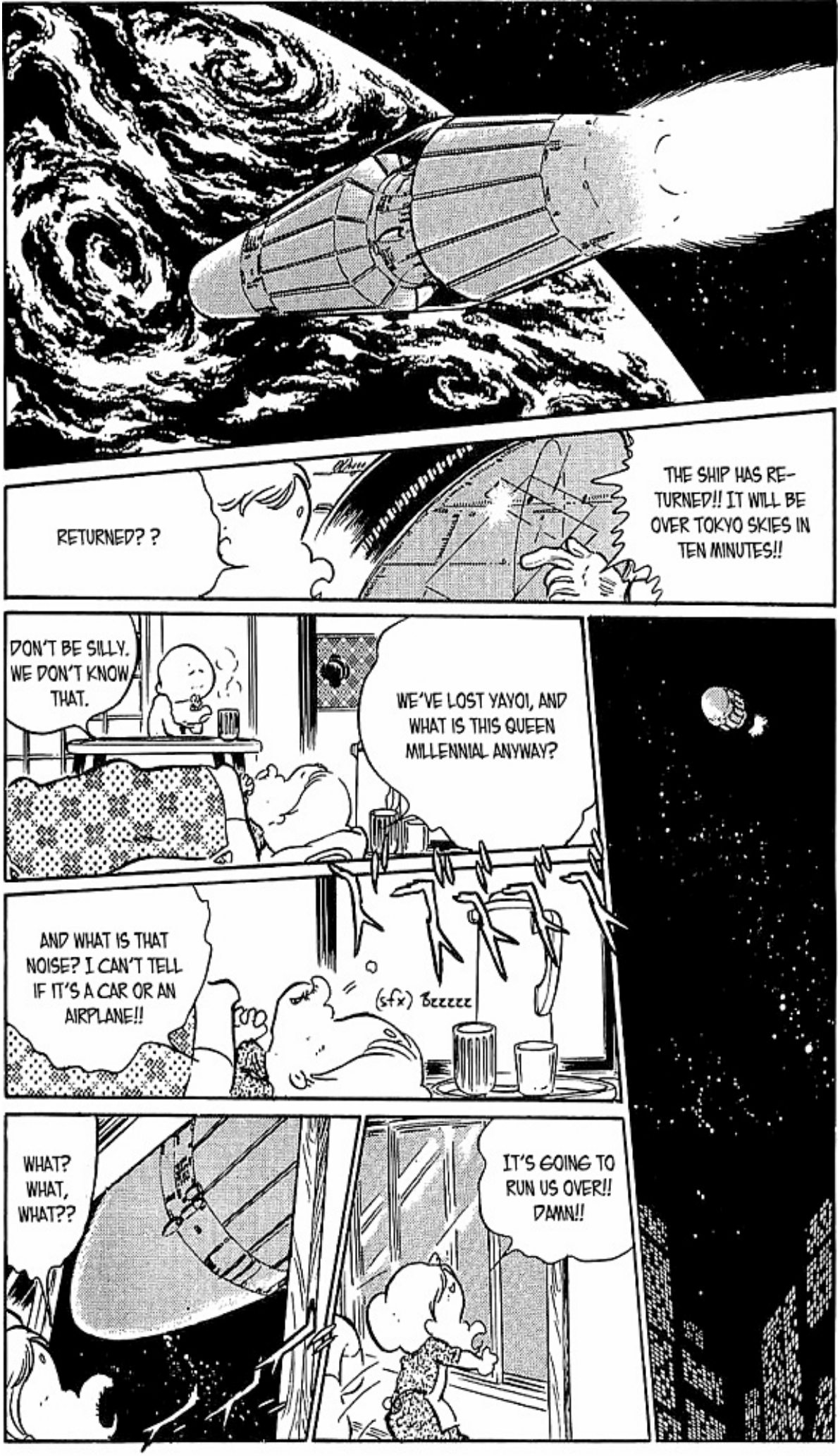


I SUPPOSE WE HAVE THE PROBLEM OF RETURNING THE BABY TO HIS HOME ON EARTH.
SO, WHERE WILL WE FIGHT?
ANYWHERE... YOU DECIDE.

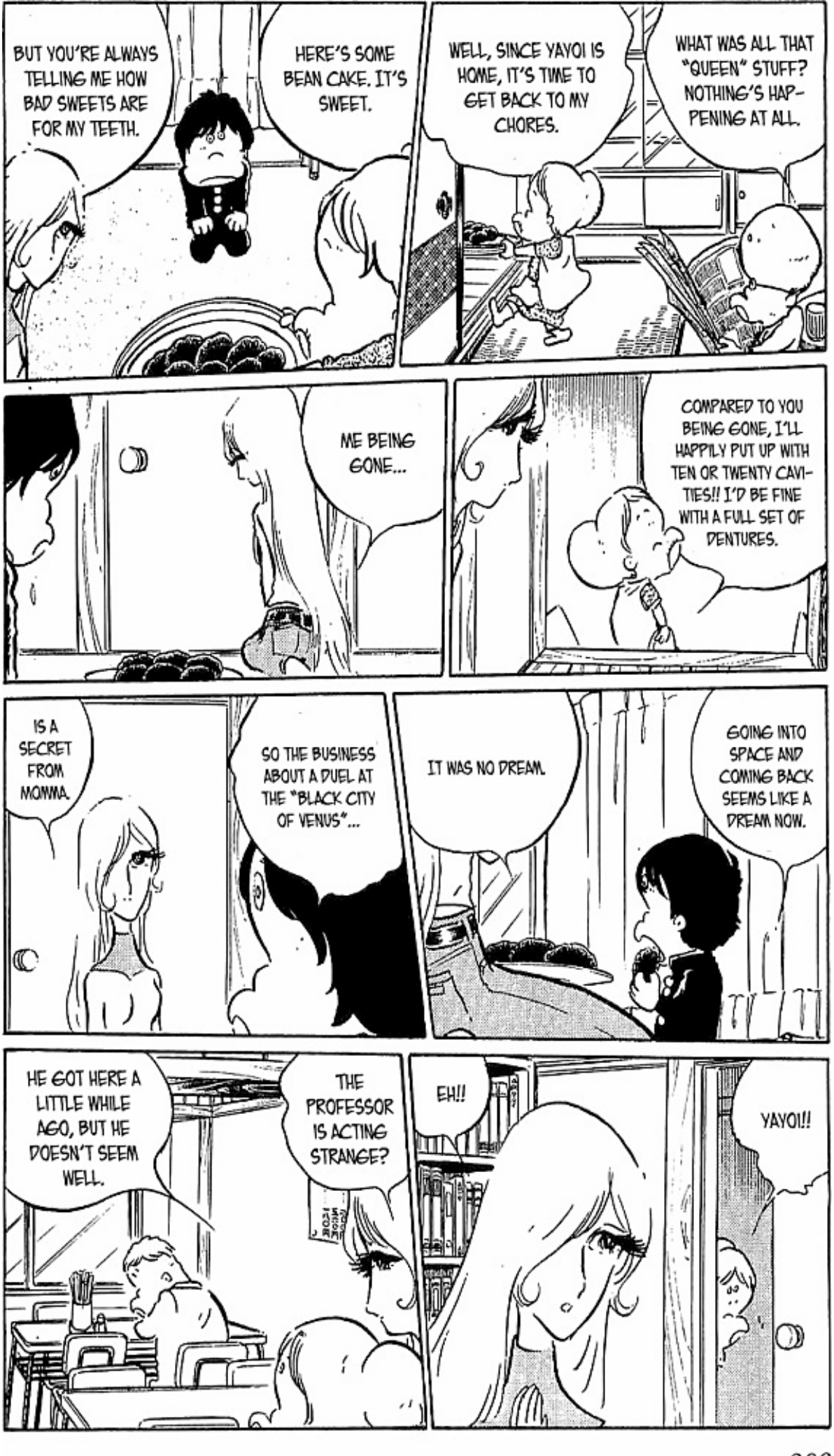
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF CHOICE.
INDEED...

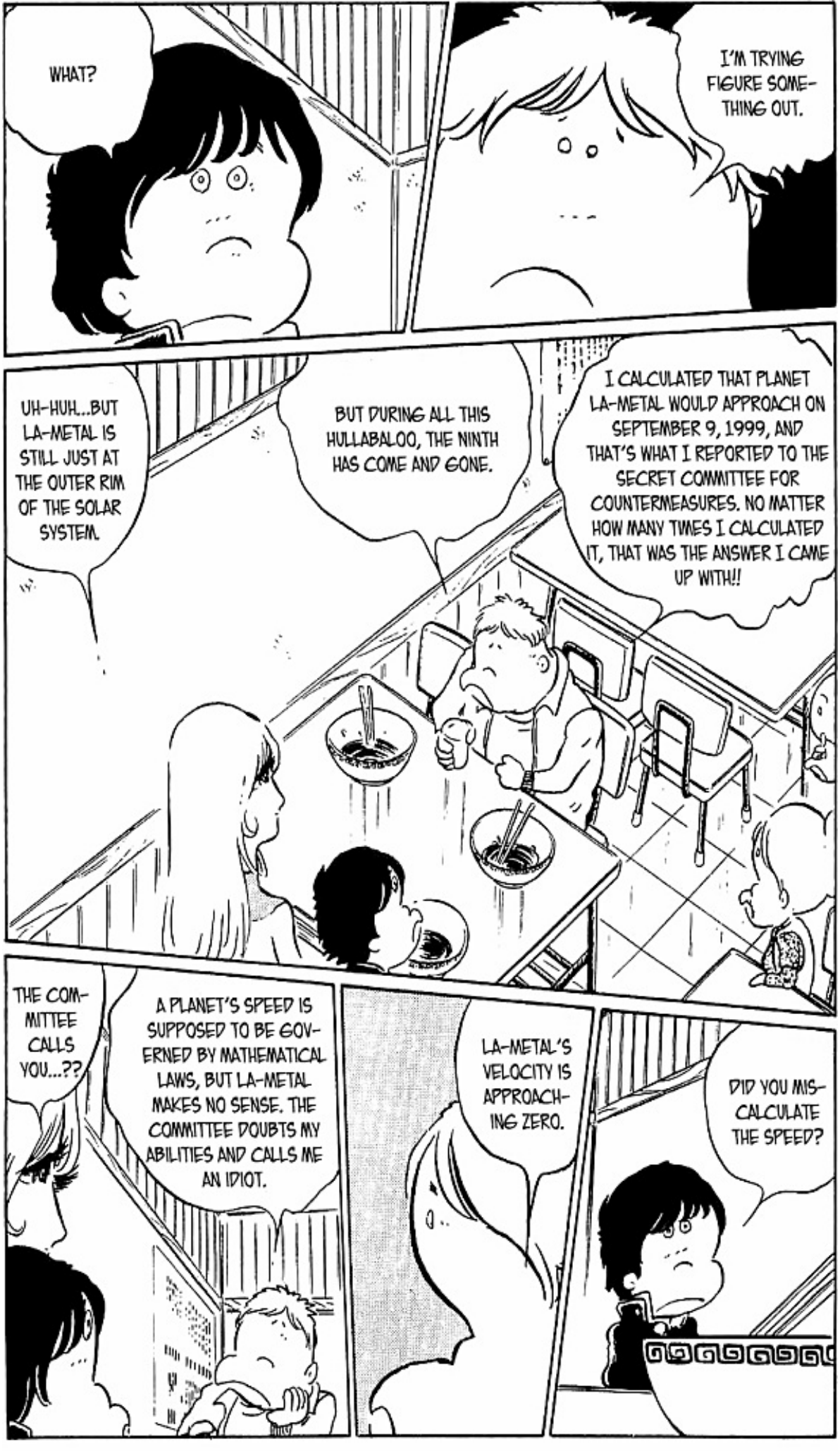

WHAT ABOUT THE BLACK CITY OF VENUS?
VENUS, HUH...IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LOSING...
A DUEL IN THE BLACK CAPITAL OF VENUS!?


OCTOBER 10, 1999 AT THE BLACK CITY OF VENUS!! AT VENUSIAN TIME 3:03 PM!! ONE OF US WILL DIE!!
I UNDERSTAND. WELL, SHALL WE GO HOME, HASHIME? EVERYONE WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT US.
G- GO HOME? HOW DO WE GET THERE FROM THIS SHIP? AREN'T WE FLYING THROUGH SPACE!?


RETURNED? ?
THE SHIP HAS RE-TURNED!! IT WILL BE OVER TOKYO SKIES IN TEN MINUTES!!
DON'T BE SILLY. WE DON'T KNOW THAT.
WE'VE LOST YAYOI, AND WHAT IS THIS QUEEN MILLENNIAL ANYWAY?
AND WHAT IS THAT NOISE? I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S A CAR OR AN AIRPLANE!!
(sfx) Bzzzzz
WHAT? WHAT, WHAT??
IT'S GOING TO RUN US OVER!! DAMN!!

EHH, WHAT? TWO PEOPLE CAME DOWN IN FRONT OF THE RAMEN SHOP!?
I'M HOME, MOMMA.
Y- YAYOI!!
そ
??H- HUH??


BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME HOW BAD SWEETS ARE FOR MY TEETH.
HERE'S SOME BEAN CAKE. IT'S SWEET.
WELL, SINCE YAYOI IS HOME, IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO MY CHORES.
WHAT WAS ALL THAT "QUEEN" STUFF? NOTHING'S HAPPENING AT ALL.
ME BEING GONE...
COMPARED TO YOU BEING GONE, I'LL HAPPILY PUT UP WITH TEN OR TWENTY CAVITIES!! I'D BE FINE WITH A FULL SET OF DENTURES.
IS A SECRET FROM MOMMA.
SO THE BUSINESS ABOUT A DUEL AT THE "BLACK CITY OF VENUS"...
IT WAS NO DREAM.
GOING INTO SPACE AND COMING BACK SEEMS LIKE A DREAM NOW.
HE GOT HERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM WELL.
THE PROFESSOR IS ACTING STRANGE?
EH!!
YAYOI!!


WHAT?
I'M TRYING FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
UH-HUH...BUT LA-METAL IS STILL JUST AT THE OUTER RIM OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
BUT DURING ALL THIS HULLABALOO, THE NINTH HAS COME AND GONE.
I CALCULATED THAT PLANET LA-METAL WOULD APPROACH ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1999, AND THAT'S WHAT I REPORTED TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE FOR COUNTERMEASURES. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALCULATED IT, THAT WAS THE ANSWER I CAME UP WITH!!
THE COMMITTEE CALLS YOU...??
A PLANET'S SPEED IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOVERNED BY MATHEMATICAL LAWS, BUT LA-METAL MAKES NO SENSE. THE COMMITTEE DOUBTS MY ABILITIES AND CALLS ME AN IDIOT.
LA-METAL'S VELOCITY IS APPROACHING ZERO.
DID YOU MISCALCULATE THE SPEED?

THE NINTH HAS COME AND GONE, AND LA-METAL'S CURRENT ORBIT IS GENTLY MOVING!!
WHO WAS THE IDIOT THAT SAID PLANET LA-METAL WILL REACH MAXIMUM APPROACH A 9:09 PM ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1999...AND MIGHT EVEN COLLIDE WITH EARTH!?
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
AT THIS RATE IT WILL BARELY GRAZE THE EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. THE ODDS ARE INCREASING THAT IT WILL ONLY MAKE A TRANSIT.
WHETHER YOU CALL IT A CALCULATION OR AN INFERENCE, IT CAN ONLY REALLY BE DESCRIBED AS A WHOPPER.
THE CALCULATION OF MOUNT TSUKUBA OBSERVATORY...THAT IS, PROFESSOR AMAMORI, IS A COMPLETE MESS.
HUMPH. IS THIS HIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT...NO...WHAT!? HIS HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE...THESE ARE THE GRADES OF A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF PROFESSOR!?
WHAT IS THIS!?
IT IS PROFESSOR AMAMORI'S STUDENT TRANSCRIPT.
THIS IS STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD, BUT THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SHOW YOU THIS!!

WHAT KIND OF GOOFY UNIVERSITY OR DUBIOUS HIGH SCHOOL CONFERS A DEGREE ON SOMEONE WITH THIS EXTREME LACK OF TALENT!!
THESE ARE THE PHD GRADES OF A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF PROFESSOR!!
I CAN ONLY THINK HE ADVANCED BY NEFARIOUS MEANS.
BUT SOMEHOW HE WENT TO A TOP HIGH SCHOOL WITHOUT BEING HELD BACK, THEN MADE IT INTO A TOP UNIVERSITY ON HIS FIRST TRY, THEN STAYED FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL AND GOT HIS DOCTORATE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT.
MAYBE HE MASTERED SOME TECHNIQUE FOR CHEATING...
IT'S TRUE HE HAD TO WORK HIS WAY THROUGH SCHOOL, BECAUSE HIS FAMILY WAS SO POOR. I CAN'T IMAGINE HE BRIBED ANYONE.
ACCORDINGLY, I BELIEVE THIS SECRET COMMITTEE FOR COUNTERMEASURES SHOULD EXPEL THE PROFESSOR AND COLLECT NEW OBSERVATORY DATA.
ANYWAY, I'M HAVING TROUBLE BRINGING MYSELF TO CONTINUE TRUSTING HIM.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, PROFESSOR.
AND THAT'S THE SEQUENCE OF HOW I LOST MY JOB.
IT WAS A PRANK.
CHARLATAN!!
YOU'RE FIRED!!

IS THAT IT IS WAITING FOR THE RESULT OF A CERTAIN MATTER.
THE REASON PLANET LA-METAL SLOWED DOWN
WAITING?
UH-HUH...THE SCHEDULE HAS FALLEN BEHIND SLIGHTLY.
...!! SHE'S TALKING ABOUT HER DUEL WITH THE LADY FROM THE SHIP!!
IF THE APPROACH IS DE-LAYED BY A MONTH OR TWO, IT WILL HARDLY MATTER ON THE SCALE OF ASTRONOMY, WILL IT PROFESSOR?
WHEN THAT MATTER IS RESOLVED, THERE IS NO DOUBT LA-METAL WILL ENTER THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND BRING WITH IT GREAT DESTRUCTION.
THEY'LL REALIZE YOU WERE RIGHT SOON ENOUGH.
I DID, BUT I EXPECT I WAS WRONG. IT TURNS OUT I HAVE NO TALENT, AFTER ALL.
DID YOU ALSO REPORT THE PLANET'S COMPULSORY SEQUENCE TO THE COMMITTEE?